

Report No. 116.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 794.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WYANDOT RESERVE LANDS.

FEBRUARY 27, 1849.

Mr. W. P. HALL, from the Committee on Public Lands, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Public Lands, in obedience to a resolution adopted by the House of Representatives, instructing them to inquire into the propriety of providing by law for the entry and purchase of the unsold lands in the Wyandot reservation, in the State of Ohio, and a petition relative to certain town lots in Wyandot, ask leave to report:

That by a treaty made with the Wyandot Indians on the 17th of January, 1842, there were ceded to the United States 108,602 $\frac{84}{100}$ acres of land in the State of Ohio. Upon these lands were improvements valued, by persons appointed by the President for that purpose, as worth \$62,801. By the act of March 3, 1843, entitled "an act providing for the sale of certain lands in the States of Ohio and Michigan, ceded by the Wyandot Indians, and for other purposes," the minimum price of the unimproved lands in that cession was fixed at two dollars and fifty cents per acre. By the fifth section of that act, it was enacted, "that in executing the surveys of the lands in the tract aforesaid, the surveyor general shall cause the improved lands to be designated on the general plat, and the position, extent and quality of each improvement to be carefully noted," &c. By the same section, it was provided that "no tract on which improvements exist should be sold for less than the real value, according to the estimates of the superintendents." It appears from the statement of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, herewith communicated, that there had been sold, of the lands in the Wyandot cession, or reservation,

as it is usually termed, in the State of Ohio, up to the 30th of November last, 602,891 $\frac{3}{8}$ acres, with which were connected improvements valued at \$52,865, leaving of those lands, undisposed of at that date, 5,711 $\frac{5}{8}$ acres. Of the last mentioned lands, 1,007 acres are connected with improvements valued at \$9,936. It is represented that the unimproved lands in the Wyandot reservation are selling readily at the present minimum price, but that the improved lands that remain unsold will not sell under existing laws, because of their valuation being too high. If the valuation of these lands be too high now, it would seem certain that it would become more and more so every day. The improvements are generally houses, and all of them are of a perishable nature. These houses, being unoccupied and unattended to, are daily becoming less valuable, are decaying rapidly, and will soon become utterly worthless. The only way in which they can be made available to the government, in the opinion of your committee, is to authorize a public sale of the lands on which they are situated to the highest bidder, at a price not less than two dollars and a half per acre, the present minimum of other public lands in the same reservation. Your committee are also of opinion, from the letter of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, herewith communicated, that the town lots in the town of Brogansville should be offered at public sale. In accordance with these views, they bring in a bill.